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COUNTRY USSR (Openbury Oblast)
SUBJECT Industrial and Town Plan
Information on Novotroitsk

REPORT

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Attachment 1: Industrial installations in Novotroitsk. Brief information based on some personal observation, but mainly on rumor, is given on two blast furnace plants, a steel mill, a coke-chemical plant, and the thermoelectric power plant in Novotroitsk. Starting in 1955 source had heard rumors regarding an underground, classified plant (sasekuchnyy zavod) in Orsk (N 51-12, E 58-35). The plant was allegedly under the control of the military and manufactured some war materials or equipment.¹ According to rumors the manpower at the plant was mainly CP or Komsomol members. Presumably a mock air-raid drill was staged on Novotroitsk on 10 March 1958, at 2200 hours, by jet planes from Orsk. Novotroitsk factory workers had been informed that the electric current would be cut off at 2200 hours and that everybody had to stay home. No information was given on the air exercise nor were there any sirens or other means used to announce the opening and closing of the exercise. Ten minutes after the lights were off, planes were over Novotroitsk. There was a lot of AAA and machine gun firing for one and one-half to two hours and then the current was switched on again.

Attachment 2: ТЕСТ ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЯ. Information is given on the organization, operations, and some personnel of the two large industrial construction and exploitation organizations in the Novotroitsk-Orsk area.

Attachment 3: Corrective labor camp, "Korrektsy", in Novotroitsk. A physical description of the camp and information on the use of prison labor in the area are given.

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Country: USSR

Subject: Industrial Installations in Novo-Troitsk Area, Chkalov
Oblast.

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a. First Blast Furnace Plant (Pervyy Domennyy Zavod), which is located in the southern part of Novo-Troitsk, ~~and~~ is referred to as "Stroy-Gorodok". This plant was put into operation in 1954 and is allegedly subordinate to some Kombinat in Orsk (5110N-5834E). The plant has a brick smokestack, approximately 120 meters high. The plant operates 24 hours a day on three eight-hour shifts and seven days each week. The plant is very large; it has an old railroad spur track; and has several thousand workers. [redacted] cast-iron blocks were manufactured

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here and shipped mainly to Chelyabinsk (5510N-6124E).

b. The Second Blast Furnace Plant (Vtoroy Domennyy Zavod) is referred to as "Maksay", and is located in the eastern part of Novo-Troitsk and 2 km. to the west of Stroy-Gorodok. Construction of this plant started during the middle part of 1957 and was supposed to be completed in eight months; however, in April 1958 [redacted] this plant was not yet completed although the blast furnace had already been built. The smokestack was yet not completed. According to rumors this plant was supposed to produce cast iron also and be much larger than the previous plant (Item 1.a.). A number of convicts from the Novo-Troitsk Forced Labor Camp "Kirpichnyy" were employed in the construction. The Trest Orsk-metallurgstroy, Novo-Troitsk, was responsible for the construction of this plant.

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c. Steel Mill, which was referred to as "Marten", was located in Stroy Gorodok near the First Blast Furnace Plant (item 1.a.). Construction of Marten was launched in 1954 and the mill had not yet been quite completed in April 1958. Judging by the size of the plant site, the Marten when it will be completed will be one of the largest industrial installations in Novo-Troitsk. Completion of this mill, as rumored, is scheduled for the end of 1958. [redacted]

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[redacted] when the Marten mill is put into operation some motor vehicle will be manufactured in Novo-Troitsk. No type or make of vehicle was mentioned.

d. Coke-Chemical Plant (Koksokhimzavod), referred to usually as "Koksokhim", is located in the western part of Novo-Troitsk near the First

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[REDACTED]

Blast Furnace Plant (item 1.a.) and Marten mill. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the plant [REDACTED] makes coke. The plant has several high smokestacks, some of which have been built of blocks and some of steel. The smoke is sometimes of a yellow color, or gray-yellow, and sometimes is a white-like steam. One of the steel smokestacks is constantly blowing fire day and night. The highest smokestack, built of bricks, never gave off any smoke during the daytime but at night the light at the of the burning fire could be observed/stack's top. Some kind of waste in the form of a yellow, greasy liquid would come from this plant and was carried through an open, narrow canal into the Ural River. Source heard the people tell that the liquid was poisonous, and that it has killed quite a number of chickens, pigs and other domestic animals, which have drunk some of this liquid. The Koksokhim operates 24 hours a day, including holidays, with three eight-hour shifts. This plant is allegedly subordinate to the same Kombinat in Orsk, as the First Blast Furnace Plant (item 1.a).

e. Thermal Electric Power Plant (abbrev: TES) is located in Novo-Troitsk in Stroy Gorodok, close to the plants in items 1.a. and 1.d. Construction of this plant was started prior to 1953 and was completed sometime during 1955 or 1956. According to rumors the plant, in addition to supplying electric current to industries and the town of Novo-Troitsk, also supplies steam for heating purposes. [REDACTED]

2. All plants in Novo-Troitsk are guarded by the plant's armed guards. Passes are required to enter the plant grounds, and this policy is strictly observed.

[REDACTED]

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3. [redacted] some constructions have been underway at the following locations:

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- a. Akkermanovka (5112N-5820E),
- b. Kuvandyk (5127N-5722E), and
- c. Khalilovo (5124N-5809E).

[redacted]
[redacted] in Akkermanovka there is a large stone quarry which supplies bricks for the building of plants and apartments, in Novo-Troitsk and other localities.

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4. Construction of apartment houses, dormitories, and worker housing projects is the responsibility of several organizations referred to as R.S.U.

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[redacted]
[redacted] there are several R.S.U.'s in Novo-Troitsk: R.S.U.--1, R.S.U.--2, and there may be even an R.S.U.--3. [redacted] in addition to domestic manpower, the R.S.U.--1 employed 400 Chinese workers, which were imported for that purpose in 1955 from China. These Chinese have been employed in the construction of apartment houses in the Novo-Troitsk district called "Zapadnyy". All R.S.U.'s in Novo-Troitsk are allegedly subordinate to the Trest Orskmetallurgstroy.

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5. Starting in 1955 [redacted] many rumors regarding an underground classified plant, "Zasekrechenny zavod", in Orsk. The plant is allegedly under the control of the military and manufactures some war materials or equipment. According to rumors the manpower of this plant consists principally of CP members and Komsomoles. It is of interest to note that some workers from

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Novo-Troitsk who had applied and received jobs at this plant, never came back to Novo-Troitsk for visits. [REDACTED]

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6. It is a matter of common knowledge that there is a military airfield in Orsk; [REDACTED] Jet planes from Orsk often fly over Novo-Troitsk. There was presumably on 10 March 1958, at 2200 hours, a mock air-raid on Novo-Troitsk from Orsk. On that date all factory workers in Novo-Troitsk were informed that the electric current would be cut off at 2200 hours, and that everybody has to stay at home. No information on the air exercise was given. Ten minutes after the lights were off the planes were over Novo-Troitsk. There was a lot of AAA and machine gun firing for one and one-half to two hours and then the current was again switched on. The air-raid's beginning and end were not made public by sirens or any other means. The following day at work there was considerable speculation as to the meaning and purpose of the attack. Some workers pretending to have knowledge said it was air-raid training and that two additional, similar, air-raid exercises would be held in Novo-Troitsk before May 1958. [REDACTED]

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Country: USSR

Subject: Trest Orskmetallurgstroy, Novo-Troitsk, Chkalov Oblast.

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1. [redacted] there are two large industrial construction and exploitation organizations in the Orsk area:

a. One was referred to as "Trest Orskmetallurgstroy" with offices on Ulitsa Pushkina in Novo-Troitsk. This organization was in charge of construction of metallurgical plants in a large area around Orsk.

b. The other organization was referred to as "Kombinat" or "Metal - lurgical Kombinat" with offices in Orsk. The Kombinat was allegedly responsible for the operation of plants after they have been built and put into operation by Trest.

2. The Trest Orskmetallurgstroy (hereafter referred to as "Trest") was headed by Ing. (fnu) SVISTUNOV; his deputy was (fnu) KOLYMAGIN, and zavkhov was (fnu) ISAYEV. Trest, itself, was an organization of Glavuralstroy; a small

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field office of Glavuralstroy was in Novo-Troitsk on Ul. Marksima Gor'kogo.

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a. Transportnaya Kontora, Orskmetallurgstroy (Abbrev: OMS), usually referred to as "garage", consisted of the following:

- (1) Lathe shop with two large and four small lathes of some unknown Soviet manufacturer,
- (2) Mechanical shop,
- (3) Generator shop,
- (4) Retreading and vulcanization shop,
- (5) Forge and electrical welding, where both types of welding, electrical and acetylene torch, were done,
- (6) Copper parts repair shop (mednyi tsakh)
- (7) Truck Park, consisting of some 350 dump trucks. These were either old 4-ton ZIS or the new ZIL (Zavod imeni Likhacheva) or one of the few 2-ton GAZ trucks. All the trucks were used for hauling construction materials in Novo-Troitsk, Orsk (5110N-5834E), Akker Manovka (5112N-5820E), Kuvandyk (5127N-5722E) and Khalilovo (5124N-5809E).

Transportnaya Kontora, Orskmetallurgstroy was headed by Ing. (fnu) Glyuchanskiy. There were approximately 1200 workers working in the garage from 0800 to 1700 hours. Ten dump trucks and drivers were always on duty, 24 hours per day in three working shifts.

b. Mashino-Prokatnaya Baza.

various electrical equipment

belonging to Trest was repaired and overhauled at this Baza. There was

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allegedly a Transformer Shop for repair of transformers and a shop referred to as "Montazh" preparing various metal construction parts for the plant built in Novo-Troitsk and other adjoining towns. There was also another shop, [REDACTED] which was responsible for 50X1-HUM drilling water wells in the Novo-Troitsk area. This organization was headed by Eng. (fnu) ANTONOV, and this Baza had approximately 600 to 700 workers, who worked 24 hours daily in three eight-hour shifts.

c. Domstroy. This organization of Trest was responsible for construction of blast furnaces (domennyye pechi). Its offices were located in Stroy Gorodok, located in the western part of Novo-Troitsk. Domstroy was headed by Ing. (fnu) RAYSKIY.

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Country: USSR

Subject: Corrective Labor Camp Kirpichnyy, in Novo-Troitsk,
Chkalov Oblast.

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1. Corrective Labor Camp Kirpichnyy was located in the western part of Novo-Troitsk (5112N-5820E), on the town's outskirts. [] never [] any other name or designation for the camp or a camp number. In town the camp was always referred to as simply "Lager" or "Kirp", the latter name being inherited from the brick factory which was originally located here many years ago.

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2. [] In the spring of 1953 [] the camp was already in operation and

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3. Compared with the Chardzhou (3908N-6336E) Forced Labor Camp, P.B. 55, in Turkmen SSR []

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[] the Kirpichnyy Camp was considerably larger and may have had over 3,000

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to 4,000 prisoners.

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The sentences of the prisoners in the camp varied and some had short sentences, such as, three to five years, while others had longer sentences from 15 to even 25 years. The rumors also named several areas from which the prisoners were brought to Kirpichnyy, such as, Mordovskaya ASSR, Chelyabinskaya Oblast and several others

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4. A large number of convicts were employed on various construction projects in Novo-Troitsk, such as, Second Blast Furnace Plant, Steel Mill, Thermal Electric Power Plant, and in the stone quarry in Akkermanovka

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Transportation of convicts from the prison camp to their working places and back was performed by the Transportnaya Kontora, OMS,

every morning and evening Transportnaya Kontora dispatched a number of trucks and drivers for that purpose. The number of trucks used for that purpose varied: sometimes there were 20 and sometimes there were as many as 50. Since the Transportnaya Kontora had only dump trucks the ones that were used to transport convicts were equipped with a high wooden board shields on all sides.

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5. The Camp was surrounded by a wooden-board fence at least three meters high, on top of which were several rows of barbed wire. On the outside of this wooden board fence, there was another fence about one and one-half meters' away. This second fence was made of several rows of barbed wire. In the belt between the two fences, there was clean, white sand which would leave distinctive footprints if somebody would cross. Six watch towers manned by MVD guards armed with sub-machine guns were built into the wooden board fence. Four towers were at the corners and two in the middle of the long side of the long fence.

The guards were MVD men wearing red shoulder boards.

6. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the case of one [REDACTED]

who had repeatedly requested repatriation and eventually refused to work and went on strike. He was tried by the Novo-Troitsk court of Perovy Uchastok and sentenced to five years at a corrective labor camp and shipped to Solitetsk Camp P.B.7. Also several [REDACTED] Russian [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] had been arrested in the period 1953-1958 and sentenced from three to five years for transportation of passengers and freight while driving OMS garage trucks, to serve that time at a corrective labor camp. All of them were shipped to distant corrective labor camps, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] and none was held at the Kirpichnyy Camp.

7. There were persistent rumors in Novo-Troitsk that there was a corrective labor camp in Orsk (5110N-5834E). [REDACTED]

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8. There was a weekly train through Novo-Troitsk on Wednesdays at 1145 hours. The train always had several boxcars of prisoners, transporting them from the northern regions via Chelyabinsk (5510N-6124E), Orsk (5110N-5834E), Novo-Troitsk, Chkalov (5145N-5506E), to some unknown destination. Usually the people sentenced in Novo-Troitsk were put on that train and taken away. Quite often some prisoner was taken off the train at Novo-Troitsk Railroad Station and escorted to the Kirpichnyy Camp.

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ANNOTATIONS to Sketch Map of Novo-Troitsk

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1. Assembly Shop of the Rolling Mill.
2. Rolling Mill (Mashina Prokatnaya Baza)
3. Transportation Office, OMS
4. City Workers' Restaurant. (A dinner of two courses without meat, such as
a bowl of soup and a plate of gruel costs ~ 3 1/2 rubles)
5. Militia Office, and city's CVIR.
6. Club and Movie House, OMS. Admittance to movie: 3-1/2 to 4 rubles.
7. Voenkomat.
8. Gorkom.
9. Row of large apartment houses.
10. Dormitory No. 1 for metal workers.
11. Offices of Trest Orskmetallurgstroy.
12. Club and Movie House for metal workers.
13. FZO School.
14. Glavuralstroy field office.
15. Seven-grade school.
16. Building Construction Technical School.(Stroyitel'nyy Tekhnikum).
17. City hospital.
18. Stadium.
19. City Park.
20. Passenger Railroad Station.
- 20a. Lenin's Memorial

21.
&
- 21a. First and Second Blast Furnace Plants. (Pervyy Domennyy Zavod and Vtoroy Domennyy Zavod)
22. Steel Mill "Marten".
23. Thermal Electric Power Plant. (TES)
24. Coke Chemical Plant. (Koksokhimzavod)
25. Fire Station.
26. Domstroy.
27. Novo-Troitsk Zapadnyy. This is a new section in the western part of town, which has a large number of apartment houses and dormitories.
28. Forced Labor Camp Kirpichnyy.
29. Passenger Taxicab Stand.
30. Truck Taxicab Stand.
31. Main Post Office.
32. Telephone Booth.
33. Food store Gastronom
34. Hotel.
35. Railway Station Restaurant.
36. Zapadnyy Streetcar and Bus Station.
37. Maksay.
38. Kolkhoz Market Place, operating on Sundays.

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Country: USSR

Subject: City Information on Novo-Troitsk, Chkalov Oblast

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1. Novo-Troitsk (5112N-5820E), Chkalov Oblast, is allegedly quite a new town, the construction of which was launched shortly after World War II. In 1953 there were only several streets and a few houses there. This is a 100% factory town; all residents are either directly employed by the plants or are indirectly connected with that work.

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2. The names of the main streets and buildings are indicated on the attached Sketch Map of Novo-Troitsk and Annotations to the map contains pertinent information to the pin-pointed items. In addition to the main streets indicated on the map, there are many side streets running into the main streets,

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3. At the present time construction of Novo-Troitsk is far from complete. Only two main streets, namely, Ul. Sovetskaya and Ul. Pushkina have been asphalted and provided with sidewalks. All remaining streets are still unpaved. However, all streets, paved or unpaved, have rows of young trees planted on

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both sides. As a new town, Novo-Troitsk has been built in an orderly way. All streets run in straight lines in the general direction of east and west and north and south. The main street in town is Sovetskaya. House numbers on the streets run from the west to the east and from south to north.

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4. The surrounding area around Novo-Troitsk is bare and the land, allegedly, not fertile. There is very little vegetation, especially to the east of the town. To the west, there are some fields of vegetables, including cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, and watermelons. There are no orchards anywhere in the vicinity. The climate is sharp with long winters, starting in October and ending in May. Very often the first snow falls in October and remains on the ground until spring. Snow storms referred to as "buran" are quite common in Novo-Troitsk, and they usually come from the east. Spring in the area is very short and the heat begins at the end of May and lasts through August. The main rainy seasons are in May and September, although there are always a few scattered rains in summer.

5. Due to the proximity of major industrial installations, the air in the eastern part of town is contaminated with smoke and factory odors. The present tendency therefore is to build the residential area in the western part of town, hence the housing project Zapadnyy / See attached sketch7.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the second floor of the house was similar. All rooms on the first

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floor were equipped with four spring beds, one table and four straight-back chairs. The beds were provided with linens, pillows and blankets, and the bed linen was changed weekly free-of-charge. There were no wardrobe closets in the rooms and clothes hung on the walls on hangers. In some rooms the workers covered their clothes with a spare bed sheet. [REDACTED] a monthly rent of 25 rubles for a bed in this four-man room, to the man in charge of the house who had the title of "Kommandant". There were no laundry facilities in the house and the workers usually paid the janitor to take care of their laundry. There was cold-running water in the wash-rooms and hot water in the kitchens. One kitchen, referred to as the "tea kitchen", always had boiling water; the other kitchen was equipped with a wood and coal range, where the residents could prepare simple meals or dishes from their own provisions. There were several electrical outlets in these kitchens where residents could plug-in their own electric tea kettles or hot plates. The house did not have a bathroom,

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] One room in the house was set-up as a make-shift snack-bar where bread, rolls, preserves, cold meat cuts, etc. could be purchased by the tenants. The snack-bar operated on an irregular-hour schedule.

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?. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He did say that the majority of the people were Russian; that quite a number of the three-year contract workers in the plants were from the Armavir area, Krasnodarskiy Kray; that some Germans who lived in town were allegedly former Russian prisoners of World War II who had refused to repatriate; and that some Poles had resettled in the area during and after World War II,

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as well as some Chinese [redacted]

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8. [redacted]

[redacted] better-quality textiles

and clothing were unobtainable in Novo-Troitsk and [redacted] people usually went to Orsk to purchase them. Work clothes and inferior-quality textiles, however, were always available in the local stores. Fruit and vegetables were usually brought in from south Kazakhstan, as far away as from the Tashkent and Turkestan areas. These goods were usually sold openly in the kolkhoz market places on Sundays. The market prices at the beginning of 1958 were as follows:

a. Meat - 1 kg: beef 18 rubles; pork 20 rubles; and lamb 28-30 rubles.

b. Poultry - a middle-sized live chicken: 35-40 rubles
-a goose: 50-60 rubles.

c. Fish - frozen of a small size: 12-15 rubles per kg.

d. Butter: 27 rubles per kg.

e. Milk, per liter: 5 rubles.

f. Potatoes; per kg: 2-2½ rubles.

g. Apples, at the peak of the season: 25-30 rubles

" at other times are not obtainable.

h. Grapes during the peak of the season: 18-20 rubles per kg;
at other times they are not available.

Compared with [redacted] wage of 750-800 rubles per month, which wages were practically standard for the majority of the town's inhabitants, [redacted] market prices of foodstuffs in town entirely too high.

9. [redacted]

there was considerable criminal activity in Novo-

Troitsk. [redacted]

in 1957 an apartment in Zapadnyy was broken into

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[REDACTED]

and a man and woman were killed while it was looted. In 1955 there was a case of a man being robbed and murdered in the street and then the body was placed on the railroad tracks to be run over by passing trains. Cases where people were robbed in the streets at night were quite common. The local newspaper, "Orenburg Izvestiya" (formerly Chkalov) was renamed back to "Orenburg" allegedly early in 1957, and it never published such events.

10. There was only one streetcar and one bus line in town:

a. The streetcar line ran as follows:

Starting at Zapadnaya Streetcar Station, it travelled via Ul. Sovetskaya, Ul. Maksay and returned. All streetcars in town were of the tverdyy type, and the fare was 30 kopeks.

b. The bus line ran as follows:

Starting at Zapadnaya Bus Station, it travelled via Ul. Zheleznodorozhnaya, Maksay Ul. and returned. Buses were of the nyakkiy type and the fare was 1- 1/2 rubles.

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11. Out-of-town bus lines [REDACTED] were:

a. From Novo-Troitsk to Orsk (5110N-5834E), fare 3 rubles one way.

b. From Novo-Troitsk to Akkermanovka (5112N-5820E), fare 2 rubles one way.

On transportation facilities in or out of town, all passengers entered through the rear and departed through the front door. Tickets were obtained inside

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from a Konduktorsha. Street-car operators were women and bus drivers were men.

12.

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From time to time,

without apparent pattern, the "Uchastkovyy" militiamen would visit

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after working hours and accompanied by the building "Kommandant" made the rounds of the rooms checking the documents of the tenants and comparing the names on the documents with those entered into the Domovaya Kniga.

13.

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On working days

the Passports were kept at home

usually in the inside pocket of Sunday clothes. Then on Sundays when these clothes were worn, the Passports were available. no militia-men would ever stop a man in working clothes and ask him for his Passport because he knew very well that a worker would not carry it with him.

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when they left the house the room keys were handed over to the janitor who was responsible for the safety of the rooms' property.

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14. only one telephone booth.

the cost of a telephone call from

a public booth was 15 kopeks and only a 15 kopek coin would be inserted in the coin slot.

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15. There were some taxicabs in Novo-Troitsk, and the only taxicab stand [redacted] was located at the Railroad Station. The taxis were the 50X1-HUM Pobeda and had a horizontal row of white-painted squares on both front doors below the windows. [redacted]

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[redacted] He knows that the taxis operated on a kilometer basis and were equipped with kilometer meters. Near the passenger taxicab stand, there was also a truck taxi stand (gruze-taksi) in the Railroad Station. All these trucks were of the GAZ-51 make. [redacted]

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Attachment: Sketch Map of Novo-Troitsk, w/Annotations.

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NE SKETCH MAP OF

Novo-Troitsk

Compiler: _____
Date: _____
Transmitting unit: _____
Key reference point: _____
Coordinates (if known) _____

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Approximate Scale
1 inch equals 500 m

KEY

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SW

SOUTH

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